Carvalho Monteiro: Um Naturalista Pionero As Coleções de Historial Natural

Antonio Augusto Carvalho Monteiro was born November 27th 1848 in Rio de Janeiro where he lived with his parents until age 9. The family eventually relocated to Portugal, settling in Coimbra where Carvalho Monteiro pursued his studies, receiving a law degree from the University of Coimbra in 1871.

Driven by a growing passion for entomology, Carvalho Monteiro took a trip to Dresden in late1871 to meet Otto Staudinger, who was then considered the best butterfly specialist in the world. In addition to his passion for butterflies, his interests in science also included malacology, botany, and ornithology.

In 1873 he married Perpetua Augusta Pereira de Melo, and soon after, returned to Brazil in order to have a more profound study of the natural sciences. They settled in Petropolis, Rio de Janeiro, which at the time was also known as the imperial city, as it was the summer residence for the Brazilian monarchy and aristocracy. Surrounded by Mountains and tropical forests and rich in biodiversity, it was the perfect place for those interested in studying natural science.

Through the worlds of Luís António Alves de Carvalho Júnior, first cousin of Carvalho Monteiro, we have the opportunity to take a glimpse of the daily life of him and his family while in Petropolis. This diary is currently under the possession of the Library of Congress in Washington DC, and describes the daily happenings in the life of Carvalho Monteiro and his wife, such as their lunches and cricket games with the royal family. Majority of the diary, however, talks heavily about the activities with his collection of various insects and plants.

Carvalho Monteiro and his wife returned to Portugal in late 1876 where he became heavily invested in his academic career. He became a member of numerous scientific societies in Europe and the Americas, such as the Geography Society of Lisbon and the Portuguese Society of Natural Sciences.

Within these academic societies, Carvalho Monteiro was considered to have the best butterfly library in Portugal. Paulino de Oliveira, head of zoology at the University of Coimbra said *"In Portugal, we have a top-notch lepidopterist. Even though Mr. Monteiro never published any of his findings, he has done many descriptions of various species through drawings and sketches of these organisms*." His collection has numerous specimens and is particularly noteworthy for the descriptions of many unknown species in Brazil, and for the impeccable preparation of specimens. There is unfortunately no known catalogue of this collection, but many of the books from this library can also be found at the Library of Congress.

In 1833, Carvalho Monteiro published an article with the description of a new type of butterfly, *Satyrus* actaea from Serra da Estrela that he named *f. mattozi* in honor of his friend and contemporary Mattozo Santos. He and Carvalho Monteiro were pioneers for the study and collecting of butterflies in Portugal

Following his death in 1920, the descendants of Carvalho Monteiro decided to sell his extensive collections of butterflies, hummingbirds and Herbarium, in addition to his wide array of books, pamphlets, and other media to various recipients in Coimbra, Lisbon, London, Lyon, Paris, and Washington DC.

Translation credit: Opong Brown, Keabra